



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Aug. 9, 2005

For More Information, Contact:
Michele Vietz
Emergency Medical Services for
Children Program
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.2953
E-mail: mvietz@state.nd.us

Wishek Youngster Receives Risk Watch Save Award for Helping Injured Man

BISMARCK, N.D.; AUG. 9, 2005 – Justin Deede, a 12-year-old who attends school at Wishek Elementary School, Wishek, N.D., today received a Risk Watch Save Award from the National Fire Protection Association for helping an injured man.

On Jan. 23, 2005, Justin was walking home from a friend's house in Wishek when he discovered a 74-year-old man on the ground after slipping on some ice. Seeing that the man couldn't move and concerned that he had broken some bones, Justin went to a nearby home and asked the residents to call for help. He then returned to the injured man and waited with him until help arrived.

Information about Justin's action was submitted to the *Risk Watch*® Champion Program, which is taught at the Wishek school. As a result, Justin was selected to be honored by the National Fire Protection Agency. He was presented with the award by Mary Marchone, field advisor for the National Fire Protection Association, at the North Dakota State Capitol today.

“The skills Justin learned in the *Risk Watch*® program helped him know what to do to assist an injured man,” said Michele Vietz, Emergency Medical Services for Children program manager for the North Dakota Department of Health. “Justin's actions minimized a potentially life-threatening situation by preventing the development of hypothermia and initiating a 9-1-1 call.”

Developed by the National Fire Protection Association, the *Risk Watch*® Champion Program focuses on reducing unintentional childhood death and injuries by giving teachers, parents and safety advocates the tools to teach children how to make positive choices every day and to

-- more --

prepare them for unexpected events. *Risk Watch*® teaches children how to recognize and avoid unintentional injuries, the number one killer of children 14 and younger in the United States.

During the 2005-2006 school year, nine North Dakota elementary schools will include *Risk Watch*® in their curricula. The *Risk Watch*® Champion Program in North Dakota is supported by the North Dakota Department of Health, the North Dakota Firefighters Association, the Bismarck Police Department and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

For more information, contact Michele Vietz, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2953.

-- 30 --

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.